I would not be forgotten
Oh no that cannot be
but ever in your memory
reserve a place for me

August 14th 1864

Dearest Sally, I seat
myself this pleasant sunday morning
to inform you that I am well & hope you
& emma & may are enjoying the same great
blessing of heaven. We got to the silver creek
mines on the 18th July & prospected for three weeks
& could not find anything that would pay.
& our money & grub getting low. I thought it time
to get to work. water being scarce in the creek
the miners did not want to hire. & I took a job
of putting up a store house for a Mr Geo. D. Rawlings
we do not get as large wages as we should have
for this country but we will do very well.
(when I say we I mean Alec & myself.) The other
boys would go on to Virginia City. I did not
want to go & do not intend to go there if I can help
it it is not very healthy & no chance of getting
one & thousands of people trying to get work
& cant do it. the most of the emigrants turn
round & go back as soon as they look arou

a day or two. Stinking or Virginia gulch is extremely rich there are men there that works as many as seventy hands & make as high as $300 to $400 dollars per day to the hands. But the poor pilgrims as the miners call the emigrants look blue & sad. I do not expect to make any more than will winter me this winter. game is very plenty deer antelope elk & Moose. by the thousands & when the weather gets cooler we can get & have all the meat we want. Alec & me boards ourselves for about 80 cts per day gold. green backs are worth 50 cts to the $1.00. flour is $25 per hund bacon 65 salt 50 cts per lb. beans 30 cts per lb. sugar 65 cts coffee $1.00 per lb. in gold, & double these figures in green backs, but they have played out with us. I said we did not get hardly enough for putting up this building we may make a good thing of it he has given us a claim a piece in the bargain & if they should prove to be rich we have

a good thing. they are mining on the banks on both sides of the of the creek & are making from $5 to 25 five to the hand. (the gold is very fine) & the old miners say it is rich in the bed of the creek. & there is a company of 6 men sinking now just above our claims & if it it proves rich we have a good thing. you cant go on any gulch or stream but what there are men prospecting, or has been, & they think they will strike something rich & certainly stinking water is not the only rich gulch on this side of the great rocky Mts. there is small quantities of gold all over this country but not enough to pay in many places, but the old miners wont give up prospecting they say they will hit something rich yet. Sally we have not got roasting years. young potatoes & young chickings to eat as I hope you have. but we have flour good bacon & we are cooking the leg of an antilope will have a potpie for dinner

I have never got any letter from you yet & am nearly sick to hear how you got home & how you get along. I got a letter from John & he said you got home safe & was living where we used to live. I do not want you think hard if I do not write often I will write every 3 or 4 weeks. I would like to write to a great people but I can't do it you can let your pap & my paps heer from me & I can write to John's & he can let the good old neighbors of Indiana hear from me. You can let the people that talks of coming here to make a fortune just to stay at home for it has played out here although there has been a great many fortunes made here & some still making but it takes a fortune to get one of those chances. Sally I do not want you to forget that we are members of a church, that our names are registered here below & I trust recorded in the Lambs book of life. I have not heard a sermon preached since I left home & do not expect to till I get back but I do not forget the promises I've the more wicked mess I see the more I feel like serving my master. I never go to sleep without remembering you & children friends classmates & sinful wretches mankind. I want you to imprint upon the young & tender hearts of our dear children the love of a once crucified but now a living Jesus. This trip is a good lesson for me if I do not make any more than will take me home I will know how to appreciate the comforts of a kind family & good home. where we are at work we see the way the miners spend their time they work about half their time make a little money Sunday they buy a weeks grub & drink & gamble the rest away. I will send you a few seeds & I want you to plant part of them in your mammas garden as it is dry & sandy & save the rest mountain cherry & raspberry which there are bushels here. Direct your letters to Silver City Silver Creek Montana P. D. Morris to Sally & emma & Mary.